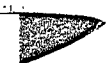




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Communications

FROM

ADAM McADAM,

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED

IN

THE MONTREAL HERALD,

IN REPLY

TO LETTERS INSERTED THEREIN

UNDER THE SIGNATURE OF

ARCHIBALD McDONELL,

RESPECTING

Lord Selkirk's Red River Colony.

MONTREAL,

(LOWER-CANADA)

PRINTED BY W. GRAY.

1816.

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2110



(No. I.)

I KNOW THEE FROM WITHIN,
THY SHALLOW CENTRE TO THY UTMOST SKIN.

JUFENAL.

MR. ARCHIBALD MACDONALD,

I KNOW the man, who when innocent, rises in a gentlemanly manner to defend his character. But I hold that man a fool, who having deserved and got a whipping, insists on its public repetition. Had you been innocent, your first care, instead of abusing a most respectable Clergyman, would have been to have cleared yourself from the imputations against you in the documents accompanying Dr. Strachan's letter; this ought certainly to have been your first

step with the public.—You begin with accusing the Doctor of retailing false and malicious reports; but, that cannot be called a report which is taken on deposition, and signed; nor, will mere assertion invalidate such documents. Your next remark, is, that it is indecent in a Clergyman to expose the motives of Lord Selkirk's colonizing scheme to the public.—But surely nothing can be more praiseworthy, than that a gentleman, or clergyman of character and talent, should enable the simple and credulous poor to perceive, and

avoid

avoid the traps of Land Jobbers, by exposing the arts employed to delude and lead him astray.

You attribute the abundance of provisions at the Red River, to the fertility of the soil; yet, by your own confession, the only produce of the colony, which the men tasted was potatoes. The rest of your provisions was only such as Mr Miles Macdonell ordered Spencer & House, with two Hudson's Bay Clerks, aided by men armed with muskets, bayonets, and cannon, to plunder from the North West Company; and this too, at a time, when many of that Company were voluntarily aiding in the cause of their King and Country, against the common enemy in Lower Canada, with all their means, whilst the Americans attacked and burnt, or (like you) plundered all their property at St. Marys. Indeed it would appear, that the head of this infant Colony associated themselves (in part of feeling at least) with the enemy, for it is well known, and can be proved, that Mr. Miles Macdonell, and his party, exulted when they heard of the destruction of the North West Company's property by the Americans, and assured the Indians and the white hunters, that, the North West Company's Depots of provisions on both hands being taken from them, they had no longer the means of entering the interior country, and would be ruined: can you come forward on oath and deny this?

Why

Why did Mr. Miles Macdonell march in battle array against the natives, to oblige them to give up to him the provisions they had acquired, by hunting on their own lands, he declaring that he wanted them ; and that Lord Selkirk, as Lord paramount, had the sole right and title to every thing on the millions of acres which he had assumed as a sovereign ; thus irritating the natives to deeds of desperation. As to Lord Selkirk's contracts with the colonists, those of the British Government, besides conveying a legal title, are so infinitely superior, as to require no comment ; but if we may judge from the contract between his Lordship and Alexander Matheson, his Lordship must have considered the poor as his property. The failure of the Sutherland men to regain their lands, gave him all the advantages he could wish, advantages which, it seems, he eagerly seized, & acted upon immediately ; nor is it improbable, that his arts contributed to that failure. If Lord Selkirk's motives for getting all the money he could from the emigrants, for a passage and lands, were not what the Doctor states them to be, why did he not act as the British Government has done—exact a deposit, to be returned at the end of two or three years ; this would have been more binding on the settlers than his own mode. Besides, they would have this advantage, that the deposit of money, being paid them at the end of a certain period, would, with the experience acquired, have been laid out in the most useful

manner to their real good. But his Lordship has strange ideas of justice, for generosity is entirely out of the question with him, as it seems to be one of his favourite maxims, that men in debt make the best Colonists.

Your assertion, that Lord Selkirk had, from experience, found mankind, when treated in a liberal manner, always become ungrateful and unmanagable, is a libel on human nature. But, if true, his Lordship's colonists must, from his treatment of them, be as tractable as slaves. With such maxims, it is no wonder that this Red River Sovereign, and you his Minister, did not succeed with men brought up under the mild and humane laws of Great Britain. It is not true that the British Government takes a deposit of a small sum of money on his Lordship's degrading principle; they exact a deposit as a surety, that the man to whom they have given a passage, lands and provisions gratis, shall settle on the lot of land which they point out to him, that they may thereby form a dense population, capable of making Roads, Bridges, &c. and be able to assist each other—at the end of three years this deposit is generously returned to them.

Peter Gunn, you say, joined the forces of the North West Company: these forces never existed but in your frightened imagination. They have not, and never had any other force than

than their industry and servants, such as other merchants have. The cavalry of which you speak, are equally imaginary. But this was probably meant to delude the public into a belief, that the North West Company having cavalry and infantry, his Lordship's demand from Government of a number of troops to take care of his own dear self, was a measure of absolute necessity.

The North West Company have no need of forces, unless to protect their property against Lord Selkirk's plundering agents, and colonists. Like other British Merchants, they stand on the rectitude of their own conduct; and, altho' they have a powerful monopoly, with his Lordship at its head, to contend with, their fair dealings with the natives have given them such influence, that the Indians of the North West Continent, from ocean to ocean, receive, and assist them as their best friends.

Your bare assertion of having navigated the rivers, till the 12th November, may, perhaps, be granted, in one case out of fifty.— The passage of Lake Winepeg is well known to many; that Lake is never considered to be navigable after the end of September, from the prevalence of storms, and bad weather. Even in summer, it is no unusual thing to be weather-bound from three to five days

at

at a time. Ice is so commonly seen in Lake Winepig in June, that no canoes enter the Northern part before the 6th or 8th of that month; and even then, they are frequently kept ashore several days by the floating bodies of ice, and sometimes so late as the latter end of it. There are many men who know this truth, and can declare it on oath. The other Lakes are nearer Hudson's Bay, and have a more backward season. The Red River is commonly frozen over in the beginning of November; but this river is a small part of the navigation to York Factory. At this very Factory, three fine able seamen, perished in the woods, on the 13th Sept. in a dreadful snow storm, that lasted three days; in such weather, communication between the ship and the shore is impossible.

At Churchill Factory, where his Lordship's ill-fated colonists were landed, the river is four miles wide; a deep swift current sets out, and when the flux of the sea makes, a strong current sets in; yet, notwithstanding these powerful agents, the common dreadful inclemency of the season is such, that on the 23d October, this wild, bold, deep, & rapid river, was frozen from side to side, and bound so firmly by the ice, as to resist the action of the most powerful tides; and on the following 4th of June was crossed on the ice by men, women, and children, carrying their luggage.—Now
if

if the seasons are so mild and late as you say, how came the Hudson's Bay Company's ships to be frozen fast in the ice last Autumn, in the beginning of October, in the most southern part of the Bay? Did you really navigate all the way from York Factory to the Red River with boats of 35 feet keel? Pray have you forgot how often you must have *navigated them on dry land*; how many tedious hours your men walked on sharp stones, in the cold water, to enable the boats to float over the shoal rapids of those small rivers? Do you suppose the passage to York Factory is known only to yourself?

As to the price of lands, those of the Red River, are certainly rated shamefully and extravagantly, as the people are not only destitute of a market, but the harvest, sheep, cattle, and Settlers, are always at the mercy of the wolves, the fire, and the Indians; none of these will ever acknowledge the authority of Lord paramount Selkirk, or of you, one of his Ministers. But who gave these millions of acres to Lord Selkirk? since he has assumed the sovereign power of disposing of such vast tracts of land, why may not I do the same; why not a third person, a fourth, &c.—a very pretty set of Sovereigns! There is only one Lord Paramount, our august and venerable Sovereign, George, King of the British Empire. Without a grant from him, Lord Selkirk has no more right

to a foot of wild lands, than I have. All the freeholders throughout the British dominions look up to him, and hold their lands of him as the only Lord Paramount, he being in this respect the sole representative of the British Empire.

I wish the soil of the Red River were as rich as you say; but several of the settlers and many others, have remarked, that the ground which cannot bear trees, is not a staple soil; but after bearing a few crops, stands in need of manure; and it seems to be a very natural inference, that staple soils alone can bear heavy, hard, timber. Almost any soil will produce short coarse grass, like that of the Red River; and this old sward ploughed up, will act as manure for a short time, but it is soon exhausted, and then the farmer must change his situation, or starve.—The first wheat sown in the colony was by Mr. Miles Macdonell, a practical farmer of Upper Canada; and such was the richness of the soil, and favor of the climate, that it perished. A Mr. Dugald Cameron, a partner of the North West Company, sent him a present of about four bushels of seed wheat, which were used for a second trial. Two of these were entrusted to the care of Mr. MacLean, the head farmer, and two Mr. Miles Macdonell kept himself; the whole was sown with every care and precaution. The produce of the two bushels was about 20 bushels, including the seed; and the other two

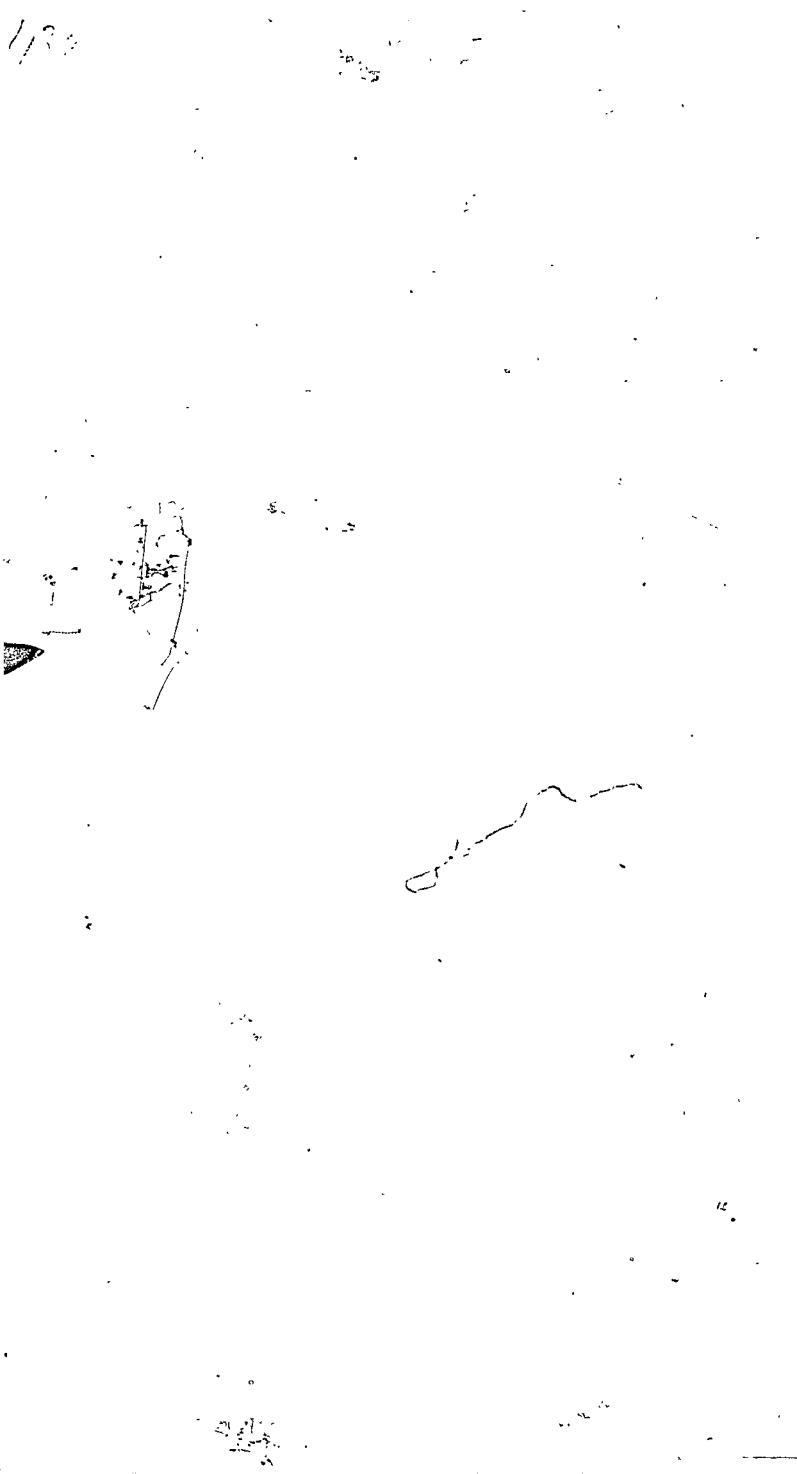
gave

gave much the same proportion. While this wheat was growing, you, Minister Archy, and your men arrived there. By your own account, the latter part of the very following winter and beginning of spring, the colony broke up. The cause of this, as taken from authentic documents, was, from bad government, excessive sufferings, the result of the above experiment, and the loss of all hope that the fine promises made them, could ever be realized. You declare that you had not even time to notice the men's accounts, that yourself and the few who remained with you, were obliged to be on constant guard; that you were harassed with fire and sword, &c. Who then, pray, broke up, and sowed such a great space of ground as you say, produced 1500 bushels of wheat, besides a proportion of other grain, and potatoes in abundance; how came that scourge which desolates the most fertile countries, to give the colony the only harvest it ever had.

Well, you are to amuse the public again, or more properly his Lordship will do so under your name, like Milton's Satan in the serpent.—I will allow you to use as much abusive language as you please, which I cannot and will not imitate.

ADAM MACADAM.

Montreal, May 30, 1816.



(No. II.)

I KNOW THEE FROM WITHIN,
THY SHALLOW CENTRE, TO THY UTMOST SKIN.

JUVENAL.

MR. ARCHIBALD MACDONALD,

I SEE your Prompter has made you appear a second time before the public, and heavily loaded with his venom.—Poor fellow! I pity you. Do not as yet arrogate to yourself that you have proved any thing; the facts (as you call them) partial and mistated, of your first letter, have been overturned by other facts, well attested, and to the truth of which it is easy to obtain unquestionable evidence. At present, I shall confine myself to the answering what little argument can be found in this your second letter; several parts of which are so sullied by abuse, that it is contamination to read them. When you have done writing, I shall lay before the public a description of this so-much-talked-of Red River, with its advantages and disadvantages; by which means, every man will be able to judge for himself. You say the Doctor is an advocate for the claims of the American Government; and that he is such, rather than let any thing come in competition with the interest of his favorite fur

traders. Is not the great Earl of Selkirk himself a Fur trader? Has he not been many years at the head of a monopoly of fur traders? Alas! my dear Lord, how much must passion have blinded you, before you could have written such a sentence. Every gentleman connected with the British Government, and very many who are not, know very well, that the North West Company, for many years past, have by every means in their power, been endeavouring to confine the limits of the Americans Northward and Westward, and this truth is but too well known to Congress, who have all along in this last war, identified the North West Company with the British Government in Canada: the Americans held it a maxim, that to destroy the one was, to cripple the other.

Pray, what has Lord Selkirk, with his great fortune, done? —he is not only a Fur Trader, but at the head of the Hudson's Bay Company, whose Charter, were it valid, stipulates, that they shall discover and penetrate 10 miles every year into the interior country; this stipulation, that Company has never fulfilled. But the North West Company, while the Northern and Western lines were mere conjecture, caused those lines to be surveyed by a regular astronomer, the country to be explored, maps to be drawn, and laid before his Majesty's Ministers in London; and upon the foundation of these maps alone, do the two Governments now act. The whole

whole of this was accomplished at the expence of the North West Company.

His Lordship, notwithstanding the example of others, could not soar to objects of pure public utility, by which nothing but honor could be gained: he grovelled on the ground, scanning its surface with the cool eye of an American Speculator.

His Lordship next hands you a string of opinions, or thoughts of some lawyers, grounded upon the *supposition* that the charter is valid. But his Lordship has forgotten to give the opinion even of those Lawyers on the validity of the charter itself. This is a secret he does not choose to entrust to the public. But until the validity of the charter is proved, all the opinions of lawyers, on it, are mere hypothesis; and even his Lawyers, on giving their thoughts on the hypothesis, that the charter is valid, have dissuaded them from the exercise of these feudal rights, justly abolished by most of the nations of Europe. A most respectable authority says, "for nothing so prepares the people for the practices of an enterprizing Prince, or factious Demagogue, as the abuse which almost always accompanies the existence of separate immunities." Perhaps his Lordship in this age of revolution, having studied the fine spun dreams of Paris and Edinburgh, on the rights of man; &c. &c. thinks the

Red

Red River a fit place for an experiment on those wild theories. It is certainly cut off from the rest of the world. I suppose, as soon as his Lordship has appointed his council and officers of state, and modelled his army, he will exclaim to the Sovereigns of Europe, behold a Government of Perfection!

His Lordship does not wish to know that papers can be produced, where the most eminent lawyers have given their opinions, that the Hudson's Bay Company's charter is invalid; and of course, a mere piece of old parchment. Had the Hudson's Bay Company themselves thought their charter valid, they would not have permitted British Merchants from Canada, to have traded since the conquest, and thereby acquired a greater influence with the Indians, and share of the fur trade than themselves: When, according to Lord Selkirk, they could have appointed Governors, Counsellors, Courts of Justice, Sheriffs, Constables, &c. &c, with full powers to raise the inhabitants, (that is the Indians) to seize, imprison, try, judge, and of course condemn, the British merchant or merchants, that would dare even to take a peep at their sacred territories. The Hudson's Bay Company for many years back, and until his Lordship became a fur trader, were honorable merchants, and knew full as well, and better than Lord Selkirk could teach them, what did,
and

and what did not belong to them. How can His Lordship reconcile the charter of New England, with the charter of Hudson's Bay ? These charters were granted at a time when Geography was little known ; the Constitution of England was then neither well understood nor settled ; many points then taken for granted, are now held to be illegal. His Lordship now hands us another opinion of these lawyers ; " we do not think this act gives jurisdiction to the Courts of Lower and Upper Canada, within the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company : these being within the jurisdiction of their own Governor and Council." How strangely inconsistent is his Lordship's conduct !

Upon my word, were I one of these eminent Lawyers, I would never see his Lordship again ; he seems to have procured and made public the above opinion, merely to shew the world, that he not only does not believe it, but that he treats the lawyers, their opinions, and the validity of the charter, with contempt. For his Lordship, as head of the Hudson's Bay Company, having power by the opinions of the above Lawyers, and by the charter, to appoint Governors, Counsellors, Courts of Justice, Judges, Sheriffs, Constables, &c. &c, is scarcely in possession of this opinion, when he posts away from London, crosses the ocean, drives through the United States, comes to Canada, begs, and at length obtains

teins of the Governor of Canada, for himself the Earl of Selkirk, a commission to be an *Indian Justice of the Peace*, in the very territories he claims as Lord Paramount, and on which he had assumed a kind of sovereign Power; and also from the same respectable authority, solicits commissions of the same kind, for several servants in the employment of the Hudson's Bay Company.—*O tempora! O mores!*

The fact is, his Lordship finds it to be his interest, as a land jobber, that the validity of the charter, and the opinions of his Lawyers, should be believed, that he may sell the million of acres which he has assumed to the best advantage; but let the dupes look to the event. Dr. Strachan's saying that it was likely to become an American colony, and his reasons for it, are but too well founded, and believed by every reflecting man; for we are aware of the tenacity of American demands. The Americans are forming settlements on the Mississippi, only a few days journey from the Red River; the whole space between the two rivers is a vast plain, where numerous bands of martial Indians constantly rove, than whom no Arab is fonder of plunder.

The answer to your next paragraph, is, that where there

is no foundation, there can be no superstructure ; of course your argument falls to the ground.

You now pour a torrent of abuse on a very worthy man, for having, in the language of a gentleman and a scholar, exposed Lord Selkirk's agreements with poor ignorant people. Do you suppose abuse is argument and proof ? Then follows a long quotation of unconnected sentences from Dr. Strachan's letters, with hasty comments on them, and having done this, you gravely tell us, you have exposed the glaring fallacy of every argument. I suppose this is a new species of logic invented by his Lordship for this very occasion. But you ought to be aware that the public is much more inclined to believe what you and his Lordship can prove, than what you say. Both you and his Lordship must take the people of Canada to be fools, to suppose they can be convinced by such incoherent stuff, but his Lordship being a Peer, thinks we are bound to believe all he says on his honor. I really pity his Lordship's situation, when he prompted you to write the above ; his extreme anger and vexation to find himself thus truly exposed to the public, was so great, that he lost the power of cogitation, he could but indistinctly utter those sentences from the Doctor's Pamphlet, which wounded him most.—Alas ! what Dæmon caused him thus to appear before the public—how many vexatious days and

sleepless nights, has this worse than Sancho's Doctor imposed on his Lordship. I would advise Dr. Strachan to look well to his conduct, for as the Earl of Selkirk is now an Indian Justice of the Peace, he may commit the Doctor to——
the Red River.

As Lord Selkirk was, and is deeply interested in the Fur Trade, which branch of commerce was threatened with annihilation by the Americans; it was certainly his duty to have come forward in the late war in support of his King, Country, and his own proper interest. But his name was not even heard of on this side the Atlantic.

Had his Lordship but half the philanthropy which you wish us to believe he has, he would have first visited a clime, which by writers on Hudson's Bay, and living witnesses, is described as so rugged and dreary. But his Lordship chose rather to risk whole families of men, women, and children, in the sad experiment, while he remained in Britain to enjoy the compliments and honors of being the founder of a colony. At length his Lordship's schemes partly fail, and are exposed to the public; here between the breaking up of a settlement formed by one set of men, and the succession of another, humanity might have made him pause.—No such thing, careless of consequences, he fits out another set, and
sends

tends them forward ; and only then, proposes to visit the Red Riber in person.—But in what manner :—you say “ at the risk of his health, and the certainty of encountering much personal inconvenience ; ” and yet his Lordship’s precautions to make the journey sure and safe, are so numerous, that a timid woman would scarcely have thought of half of them. The best of every thing, the most favorable season, chosen men to navigate the vessel, and soldiers to guard him. What a fuss is here about this Lord’s taking an airing, with all his conveniencies, servants, and guards around him. You say Lord Selkirk told the settlers, if they should repent of their bargain, he would return them their money again. Pray how many were there present when his Lordship made this generous offer? ~~as~~ two men will form the plural number. Was it at Stornaway, where, as soon as the settlers knew it was intended by his Lordship that they should be transported to Hudson’s Bay, to which they might have preferred Botany Bay, numbers deserted? Those already on board of ship, that could swim, threw themselves into the sea, and swam ashore, leaving all their effects to be plundered by the seamen. Those wretches who could not swim, were strictly kept on board, till the ship sailed. Was it at Sligo, where his Lordship collected all their money, telling them money was of no service ; and for their ready money gave them bills on Mr. Miles Macdonell, paya-

ble in Hudson's Bay ; many of which are now in Montreal. You have attempted to explain Matheson's agreement with Lord Selkirk, and I think it is as you say, a *singular one*. We must wait for Matheson's account of the great offers made him ; of the truth of which there are great doubts ; remember that he has given a regular deposition, and you but mere assertion. In the next paragraph where Lord Selkirk is compared to a recruiting serjeant (of which more hereafter) you say every allegation and argument which the Doctor has advanced in regard to the contracts, is now completely refuted, and done away. But, softly, what have you advanced that enables you to say this much ; you only tell us, the terms were almost the same as those usually given by the Hudson's Bay Company. Pray, how much is that word *almost* intended to conceal. At the end of three years, instead of a free passage back to Scotland, which passage even the Hudson's Bay Company always thought a hardship, and their servants, as being so much time lost to them. Lord Selkirk allows them to *take* one hundred acres of land ; but you forget to inform us on what conditions these hundred acres of land were to be *taken* by the settler ; and also to what place he was to be farther transported to find them.— Why have you not laid before the public, one or two copies of Lord Selkirk's agreements with his men and colonists ; this his Lordship, had he any wish that the public should see them,

them, would soon have done. The most favorable opinion of the public is, that setting aside your abuse of a Gentleman, more worthy than either yourself, or your patron, you have just left the case where you found it, extremely against his Lordship. You were led by him to utter those virulent expressions, especially when touching on his Lordship's immaculate character, which certainly requires all his Lordship's eloquence to keep in repair. Would it not have been as generous in his Lordship to have defended your own character, which stands so much in need of it. You have, however, a merit I did not think of before; in the present dearth of news, and general distress; you have come forward to amuse the public.—Formerly we had Mrs. Clarke, and Colonel Wardle—and now we have his Lordship and you.

ADAM MACADAM.

Montreal, June 5, 1816.



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(No. III.)

I KNOW THEE FROM WITHIN,
THY SHALLOW CENTRE, TO THY UTMOST SKIN.

JUPENAL.

MR. ARCHIBALD MACDONALD,

WE have now your third letter. It is really suprising you have so little regard for your own character, as to come before the public with such partial and erroneous statements ; but little else can be expected from the devoted servant of the author of the Red River Prospectus.—On the truth or falsehood of that Prospectus, hangs the whole, and I dare him to the proof, for you are merely the mask under which his Lordship writes these papers. You both seem to forget how easy it is for the people of Canada to make themselves acquainted with Hudson's Bay, the interior of that rude country, the Red River, and its colony.

Several persons from Hudson's Bay are now farmers amongst us ; besides the very many who have been in the employ of the British merchants from Canada ; and lastly, the very settlers from the Red River itself, almost every one of whom has given a deposition, flatly contradicting the
material

material part of your assertions.—You set out with, “*The terms of the contracts were no higher than was necessary, in order to be certain that they were actually in earnest in their apparent anxiety to become settlers, and that they were not mere vagabonds, wishing to escape from debts or crimes.*”—What a criterion is here to know an honest man by; he only it seems can be expected to have money, and with it be willing to purchase a passage to an unknown dreary country.—How unlucky you are in thus pointing out to the public, the reason why his Lordship gave you a passage for nothing. There is a deposition of one of the settlers, stating that Lord Selkirk drew out a contract for him with his own hand, and wished him to sign it; but upon finding that he could not have a copy of that contract, he refused signing it; and came without any engagement. If these contracts could be seen, perhaps they would shew the spirit of a Lawyer, deeply versed in the quirks of the Law. “*Not submitting to this Regulation, and others, which Lord Selkirk had taken the pains of writing for their government and advantage.*” Pray did his Lordship not recommend the free use of the shellela against the North West men. Were these rules for government, the same as those which were adopted on a former transportation of colonists to Hudson’s Bay; on which voyage his Lordship’s representative so frequently handcuffed, and otherwise ill treated them; that

that they rose on him with one accord to throw him overboard ; from this they were dissuaded by the Captain ; the officers of the ship armed themselves, and getting the men below the hatches, kept them there. A poor Highlander, who did not understand English orders, received a sword wound between the collar bone and neck, of which he lingered and died.—Those who accompanied you on the faith of the finest promises of Lord Selkirk, were obliged to sell their little all to pay for a passage to the Bay ; but what Bay, was carefully kept from their knowledge. Near a hundred of these wretches were crowded on board of one ship with nothing but the ship's provisions to subsist on ; a confined situation, a cold wet voyage, aided by the recollection of the past, the sufferings of the present, anxiety and fear of the future, brought on a deep dejection of mind ; contagious disorders broke out—about one tenth of them died, and very many of the others were much emaciated.—Yet all this misery, sickness, and death, is haughtily said to be purely their own faults.—Alas ! their great crimes were credulity and deep poverty. In this weak sad state, they passed many days in Hudson's Straits amongst the ice ; having cleared this place, the utmost verge of nature ; they at length arrived, on the rugged, muddy, dreary, shores of Churchill ; the interior of which is a vast morass, intermingled with rocks, covered in places with moss, dwarf

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pinces and willows, its utmost strength of vegetation; the greatest art of the gardener, with the strongest manure, can scarcely raise an abortive radish. Such was the entrance into Lord Selkirk's charming land of promise. As the Factory could not contain them, they were sent a considerable distance to build themselves huts, as there is no wood for several miles from the Factory. Weak as they were, exposed to the most rigorous weather, they were obliged to work hard, even on a Sunday; for the setting in of winter at Churchill is dreadful; and to the month of April, man may be truly said to contend with the elements for his life; and even in the latter end of May, Indians have been known to perish in the snow storms.

During the six months of winter, the colonists remained and labored at Churchill, by your own public confession, each person had the limited allowance of half a partridge (about 7 or 8 oz.) and $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of oatmeal and pease per day; and for one day in the week this half partridge was changed to half a pound of salt beef.—Every person in the Hudson's Bay Company's employ, (not Lord Selkirk's particular employ) has an allowance of three Partridges, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of Oatmeal, pease or barley, and one pound of bread per day; or a full equivalent of other animal food in the place of the three partridges. In these excessive cold countries, a liber-

ul supply of animal food is absolutely necessary to counteract the effects of the rigid climate; and the Hudson's Bay Company allowance is found just sufficient. Let us compare them.

<i>Hudson's Bay Company per Man per Day.</i>	<i>Lord Selkirk's per Man per Day.</i>
Fresh Bread 1 lb.	Fresh Bread, none lbs.
Oatmeal, &c. $\frac{1}{4}$ a $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Oatmeal and Pease 1 lb. 3 oz.
Partridges No. 3, 3	Partridges—half 0 . 8 .
<hr/> 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	<hr/> 1 lb. 11 oz.

Here are 3 lbs. of animal food, and at least 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of vegetable do. a 1 4-5 lb in all—here is 3 oz. of animal food, and 1 lb. 3 oz. of vegetable do.

By your own statement, the colonists never tasted bread at Churchill.—Is there here no difference; yet you insultingly tell us, they were plentifully supplied with good wholesome food. It is surprising how these poor wretches, under hard labour in such a country, could have preserved life on half a partridge and a little oatmeal and pease, with snow water for their drink; rum they could not get without ready money, for who would trust such ghosts as they seemed to be. You assign as a cause of the settlers being sent from the Factory to erect huts in this distressed and dying condition, "that they might be near the woods, and on good hunting grounds"—The first reason is a just one. But this place, tho' there are many partridges, was far from being the best hunt-

ing grounds, which are always on the sea shore to the north ward of the Factory. But even had the settlers been placed on the hunting grounds, such were the maxims of his Lordships government, that altho' famishing on half a partridge, and a little oatmeal per day, the Governor of Churchill, with his officers, took their guns from them, and jeeringly returned them without the locks; thus depriving them of the last hope of being able to add a single ounce to their scanty pittance of food.—To what purpose was this wanton abuse of power.—In this low emaciated state of body, poorly clothed, the weather so cold, that the thermometer stood at 50 to 70 degrees below the freezing point, they were obliged to go to Churchill Factory for their provisions, you say 12 miles. They declare on oath, it took them *four days to go and come*, two days of which they hauled a heavy sled; and of three journeys out of four, the very heavens were obscured with storms and snow drifts.—Yet, you insultingly say they found it "*monstrous hard*." It was nothing, a mere nothing.—

Who but Lord Selkirk could think of coming before the public with such a picture of human misery, caused by himself. —How can he so cruelly insult the miseries of those deluded people, who, whatever might be the weaknessess of human nature, under sickness and hard labour in a foreign clime, really deserved his compassion. On the faith of reiterated promises from his own mouth, they left their native homes,

broke

broke thro' the ties of nature and friendship, and throwing themselves on his Lordship's mercy, became his dependants in a distant unknown country. Was it part of his Lordship's fundamental rules of government, that his colonists should be made to bear the greatest possible hardships ere they arrived at the Red River; that by comparison with their past sufferings they should find that place a land of promise. What must have been the sufferings of the colonists under such a man as the Governor of Churchill, when as you declare, the very women volunteered to get away, by a painful journey of 150 miles, over snow, exposed day and night to the worst weather. Pray where did you get the pemican, Buffaloe grease, &c. which you served out so plentifully to the settlers at the Red River? were they not the very identical provisions plundered by Lord Selkirk's Governor, Sheriff, &c. from the North West Company's storehouses? so that when the colonists did not starve, they subsisted on rapine. No wonder you boast of plenty, when it was obtained in this flagitious manner.

The forces, the troops of the North West Company, seem to be his Lordship's hobby-horse; this was meant to impose on the public a full persuasion that the British merchants had something of the kind; thereby intending to abate the surpriz and contempt which the community felt on hearing

his

his Lordship's demand of regular troops for his body guard. And afterwards the engaging the discharged assemblage of men that composed the De Meuron regiment, whose tongues and dialects were so various, that scarce any ten of them understood other ten. This deceit must be principally intended for the British Isles ; as it is well known in Canada, that the finances, long journeys, and scantiness of provisions, never allowed the North West Company to dream of troops of any description.

At one time we have an account of the natives being under the influence of the North West Company, assaulting the settlers, and burning down their houses ; and almost in the same breath they are the best friends of the Colonists, aiding them in every thing, and enforcing their return to deliver them from the despotism of the North West Company. Are you not aware that the absurdity of your accusations and contradictions defeat your purposes of deception. How can rival traders with a few servants, whose whole profits, and very personal security depend on the good will of the natives, exercise a despotism over a hundred times their number of roving Indians, whom they only see occasionally ? The case is quite the reverse ; the traders are obliged to be very circumspect in their behaviour, and oftentimes put up with the loss of property and sometimes even the lives of their men.

especially

especially about this very Red River. His Lordship has had the whole winter, except the time in which he was begging his Commission of Indian Justice of the Peace, to scheme and mature these papers of deception; which show clearly the composition of a Lawyer versed in the arts of chicanery. You say "*the prices of things in Hudson's Bay show, that the communication with England by Hudson's Bay is not so enormously difficult, as the Doctor has laboured to represent it.*" Here is still confession enough for the public to believe, that a colony, can never be supported, or find a market, by Hudson's Bay. The temporary price of a few articles, is no criterion. The question is, at what price must the colonist at the Red River sell his produce, so as to enable him to buy the necessaries, and little luxuries of life, to live comfortably and bring up his family, supposing him to have no other outlet than Hudson's Bay? and whether any merchant in England would regularly risk his capital on such an adventure, at the prices suited to the Colonist?"

From the distance, rapids, carrying places, brooks, and small rivers, it has been pronounced next to impossible to do so.—Why does not his Lordship come forward with regular calculations to elucidate this important point on which depends the very existence of a Colony. Mr. DUNCAN CAMERON is next the hero of your tale. His address, influence,

and

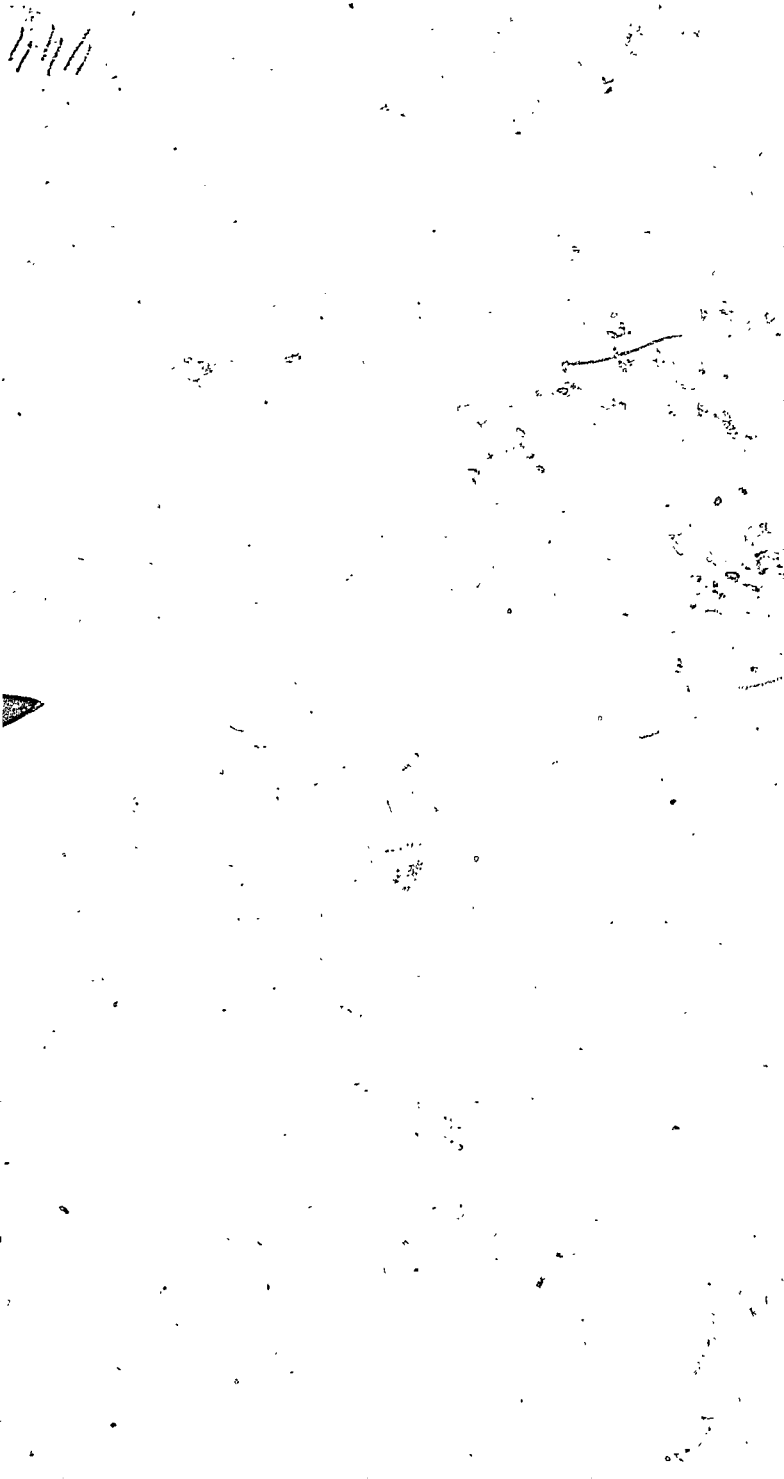
and humanity, are alternately the theme of your distress ; but when he put on an old loyal red coat, he became quite irresistible. Is it not a matter of astonishment that a Colony under the great Earl of Selkirk, with such a Governor as Mr. Miles McDunnell, having under him a Sheriff, Officers, &c. &c. armed with cannon, muskets, &c. &c. ; in the finest place in the world, abundance of provisions as you say, (no matter how they came by them) every necessary cheap and plenty, with his Lordship's maxims and written laws systemized into a constitution, should or could ever be possibly overturned by the address of a plain British Merchant. Something must have been radically wrong. I am afraid his Lordship, like the Revolutionists of France, forgot to make good sense and honesty part of the Code. The truth is, the settlers at the end of their depositions declare, "*that their sufferings, and the total failure of Earl Selkirk's promises, made them determine to quit the Red River ; they requested, and begged of Mr. Duncan Cameron a passage to Canada, which was humanely granted them.*" This is the simple fact, according to their own oaths. The contracts of some of those men had expired, and for using self defence, you accuse them of "*High Treason*;" to whom? to Thomas Douglas, Earl of Selkirk, Indian Justice of the Peace, dealer in furs, rum, and tobacco, for Cash only, &c. &c.—Take you care that this Red River Sovereign does not some day order you his Minister to be tried for *High Treason*. You will have no

excuse, as it appears you fully own his authority as liege Lord, and therefore cannot appeal to *our* gracious Sovereign.

You end your very tedious letter with informing us, that the men were obliged to pay ready money for their wants at Churchill Factory, otherwise you yourself tauntingly told them, they could not be supplied. Yet the Earl of Selkirk personally assured them, money was of no service in Hudson's Bay, collected it from the settlers, and gave them bills, payable in Hudson's Bay; all this was no doubt honorable, very honorable. It seems nature never intended his Lordship for a Nobleman; between him and the Peerage she interposed four brothers; but fortune, that sometimes plays wonderful freaks, has made Lawyer Douglas Earl of Selkirk.

ADAM MACADAM.

Montreal, July 3d, 1816.



(No. IV.)

I KNOW THEE FROM WITHIN,
 THY SHALLOW CENTRE, TO THY ULTIMOST SKIN.

JUVENAL.

MR. ARCHIBALD MACDONALD,

Your fourth letter begins with complaining that the Fur Traders originated the tales of the distress of the colony. I must naturally suppose you mean his Lordship and the Hudson's Bay Company, as they are the Fur Traders you are best acquainted with ; and every one will cordially agree with you, that his Lordship is really the origin of all the evils which have happened to the colony.—Your lame account of the detention of the colonists' baggage at Hudson's Bay, by means agreeth with the depositions of the settlers. You say, it was delivered at York Factory to their fathers, brothers, and relations ; but pray, what become of the baggage of those who had no relations ?—with your usual sophistry, you declare, they suffered no material inconvenience from the loss of their baggage, as they could be supplied with clothing from the store ; one of the settlers you say, even got both

a leather coat and pair of trowsers; but people brought up in Britain think a shirt a necessary part of clothing. It seems, then, it is nothing for a poor man to be obliged to spend his hard earnings on clothing, &c. &c. while the sufficient supply he had already provided, is spoiling, or rotting in a distant place.—I cannot help taking notice of a spirit of exultation that always appears in your Letters, when the distresses of the colonists are mentioned, as much as to say, if we could not keep them, at least, we made them suffer before they got away. You say, “the tales of frost-bit are scarcely worth notice, as nothing of that kind occurred more than what often happens in Canada, and what to my knowledge happened sometimes in London last winter.” At Churchill Factory in the month of Sept. when the dry ground is most thawed in the woods, at the depth of 3 or 4 inches below the moss, the frozen ground is found. Sometimes so soon as the last of Sept. always very early in October; all the ponds are frozen, and the snow lies on the ground, without any more thaw for that season; in the latter end of that month the cold becomes intense, and the largest rivers are then frozen over. The cold of the winter months increases in proportion, even to 82 degrees, below the freezing point, with a most stormy climate; the head of every person is so wrapped up, that scarcely his eyes can be seen; and notwithstanding all precautions, the face of every one exposed

sed to the weather, appears as if burnt; the skin coming off in the most exposed places; a scab is to be seen on one part or other of the face; nor do they recover their colour till the month of June, when they are flayed by the muskettes—Yet you barefacedly tell us, the winter is as mild at Churchill as in Canada, or London.—As you had good clothing, I do not see how you could get frost bit in London, except at his Lordship's table, when he happened to be alone.—One page of Hearne's travels will throw more light on Hudson's Bay, than a thousand such letters as yours—The bastards, the savage half breeds, are frequently spoken of.—That is to say, in polite English, some of the white men from Canada and Hudson's Bay, have sometimes left a child behind them in those countries; they are very few in proportion to the other natives, and are much beloved by them. In Hudson's Bay, they are certainly numerous, from the long residence of your countrymen at the Factories, but almost the whole of these half-breeds are in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, who find them their best men, &c.; what would his Lordship say, had he been in the East Indies?—It seems his narrow mind must bend the customs and rules of all other countries to the laws of the Kirk and Covenant. His Lordship's anger is so great at Dr. Strachan for exposing his wild schemes to the public; at the Indians for denying his authority; and at the North West Company for humanely giving

a passage to the deluded settlers to Canada ; that he cannot contain himself within the bounds of decency, and makes use of you his puppet, to give vent to it in the most inelegant language. The Indians, you say, implored you in the most affecting manner to return and protect them from the partizans of the North West Company, "a truth to which every one of the *settlers* who then accompanied me, is ready to make oath."—This is pure equivocation, as there were then no real settlers with you. Pray, who were these partizans of the North West Company to whom you so continually recur as enemies to yourselves, and to the natives, whom you represent as continually insulting the Indians? Those who have passed many years at the Red River know of no other people than the natives, and the traders from Canada and Hudson's Bay. The first are like the highland clans, insult one, and the whole are insulted ; they will never act against themselves. The Hudson's Bay men cannot be supposed to be the partizans alluded to.—There are perhaps a dozen, or two poor old worn out Canadians and Hudson's Bay servants, who, with their small families have taken refuge among the Indians ; those would, and must be the last, to insult their relations and protectors. Are you and his Lordship such enemies to truth, as never to be found in her company. There is a deposition, stating that the Indians were prevented by the North West Company's partners

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partners from attacking Mr. Miles Macdonnell and settlers, for seizing their land and molesting their trade. Does it stand to reason, that Lord Selkirk's agents, who came to seize these lands from their ancient proprietors; who claimed every thing on those millions of acres as Lord Selkirk's property; and without whose permission no one was to dare to hunt, trade, traffic, or abide, on this vast tract of land; who parcelled out the lands without even asking the consent of the natives, could be supposed to be otherwise than in a state of hostility with the Indians; who from time immemorial, have bravely fought in continual wars, and lost much of their population, for those very lands.—What has caused such seas of blood in America, but the speculations of land jobbers on Indian lands?—"This cruelty and violence to the poor industrious settlers," &c. &c.—How strange and contradictory is the language of your letters.—Here you think fit to invent a tragic story; the poor settlers (tho' by the bye, they had almost wholly left you) were treated in an inhuman manner.—How comes it about that you have not been able to name one person who was ill treated, or one single act of injustice done to the colonists, by the North West Company. In your third letter, Mr. Cameron is accused by you, of paying the greatest attention to the colonists, giving them wine, liquors, and the best of food, inviting them to his table, to

balls,

balls, &c. &c. and enjoying their confidence in the highest degree. This story then suited your purpose, but as truth has no share in your Letters, you never asked yourself from whence he could get all these good things; nor how it was possible to make such sumptuous treats for a whole winter on ten gallons of wine, &c.—Of the little Mr. Cameron had, he freely gave a large share to the destitute; of an open temper, he perhaps too frankly spoke what he thought; for in the then circumstances of the settlers, Mr. Cameron as well as most others, must have considered them as lost to themselves, to society, and to their country. The kindness shewed by the North West Company's agents to the colonists, you mention as one of the causes of the breaking up of the colony; and the settlers themselves on oath acknowledge, with gratitude, the attention and humanity of the North West Company.—As to your railing at Mr. M'Leod, nothing less could be expected, as it is natural for you to hate a Justice of the Peace; indeed I shall not be surprised to see your party in a short time enter a protest against the whole Court of King's Bench.—I shall now quote a part of your letter;

“ Andrew Macbeath particularly observes, that he could
 “ not get clothing from the store for his infant child, al-
 “ though his wife and he had been obliged to leave their
 “ clothes at Churchill, under the promise of having them
 immediately

" immediately sent after them, which was never done. To
 " this, I have simply to reply, that Andrew Macbeath had no
 " child at all while he belonged to the colony ; I have been
 " informed indeed that his wife was delivered of a child, at a
 " post of the North West Company in the river Winepig
 " some time (a few days) after they left the settlement.—
 " This specimen of the barefaced lies which you (Dr. Strach-
 " an) have lent yourself to circulate, deserves no comment of
 " mine."

I have taken pains to copy out the above for a second rea-
 ding of the public, as it shows in a particular manner the
 total failure of attention to the wants of the settlers, not to
 say humanity. — In the name of goodness must a poor preg-
 nant woman, destitute of clothing, in a foreign country, with
 no means of supply whatever, but from Lord Selkirk's store,
 (*which was* solemnly bound to supply her *wants*) be refused the
 means of wrapping up her babe, till the moment of delivery.
 Are the following hours, and but too frequently days and
 weeks of anguish pointed out by his Lordship, to be the time
 in which a woman shall seek, obtain, and make her baby's
 clothes. Had Lord Selkirk been banished to Siberia or Hud-
 son's Bay, and there met with such treatment, what would
 he have thought of it. The only way to judge of such ac-
 tions is to bring them home to our own bosoms.

"The trash which you have trumpeted forth about wolves,
 "and on which you lay so much stress." Yet of the twenty
 sheep that were brought to the Red River, one half of
 them quickly fell a prey to wolves, or wolf dogs. It appears
 you have never slept alone in the wide plains, where wolves
 are sometimes to be found in packs of above 100, otherwise
 you would not have thought them so contemptible. Permit
 me to give you the history of one of your poor men, named
 Magnus Isbester, who in the month of March, 1813, came
 from the salt Brook, Red River, to the house of Mr. Miles
 McDonnell; he said he had fasted two days, and asked for
 food; he was directly ordered off to a camp at the distance
 of about 30 miles, where Thos. M'Kimmey and Michael
 McDonnell were collecting provisions; here he arrived, and
 assured those clerks he had fasted three days, and begged
 for something to eat, as he was quite exhausted, which he
 got; and was ordered to start early the next morning to an-
 other provision place at the Hair Hill. On getting up he
 requested something for breakfast which was denied. A few
 of the Scotch women were there, among whom was Mary
 McKinnon, who struck with pity at his low state, and hard
 usage, took part of her clothes, went to the Indians who
 were there, and bought a little meat, which she hastily cook-
 ed, and gave him a small piece. Michael McDonnell no-
 ticing this, came into the tent, and perceiving the poor

man hiding something under his coat, shook it violently; the morsel fell, which he took up, and declared if he knew who had given him that bit of meat, they should have none from him for a week. Mary McKinnon made answer, that it was her who had given it to him, that she was not ashamed of it, as she had bought it with part of her own clothes, and had a right to dispose of it; adding, it is inhuman in you to oblige him in this weak state to cross a wide plain of 40 miles, without shelter, in such a snowy, blowy day. Michael McDowell harshly repeated the order for Magnus Isbester to set off.

The poor wretch fasting, set forward all alone. About the middle of the plain, hunger and the storm laid him low, and the wolves quickly devoured him. People came over that way, but it was about a fortnight afterwards that Pat. Clubby and Thomas Cochrane, coming from the Hair Hill to the Red River, found part of his clothes, his hair, and some of his bones.

The temper that was pointed out, and followed up in the government of the Colony, is, I am afraid but too well marked in part of his Lordship's own conduct, last winter. To the many evils the colonists suffered, whether from the nature of the country, accident or harsh and improper treatment from his agents, he paid little attention.

In the examination of the men at York &c. &c. he did

not seek to redress grievances, soothe the sorrow of the men, and console them for their hardships, loss of their time, friends, &c. nor search out by what means the miseries that had happened might in future be avoided. No, it was to procure evidence, that punishment might be inflicted for any breach of the laws, which vexation, want, and despair had caused the Colonists to commit, in order to ensure their own safety and retreat; tho' he must have considered himself in some measure as the author of these disorders. He has listened only to the haughty side of the question, although he had found by experience that his project had brought nothing but vexation and loss to himself, poverty, misery, and death to the Colonists. The venerable Penn, the real founder of a Colony, would in such a case have sought out, heard, and perhaps, have confronted all parties; not with a view to punish, but to examine how far his own measures had been faulty, or not, as well as those of his agents; how far the ideas he entertained of the feasibility of a colony, could be realized; and whether in his own conscience, the lives of whole families could with propriety, be risked in a distant inland country, surrounded with Indians, necessarily inimical to colonization, and with which he was no otherwise acquainted than by hearsay.

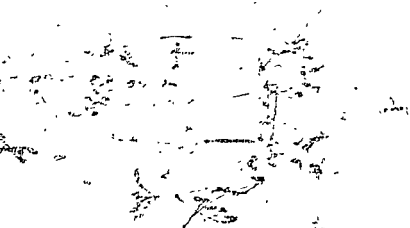
You finish, by comparing Dr. Strachan to "a little dogie
barking

barking at the moon." Nothing less than the elegant pen of his Lordship could have hit on so just a simile. The dog is an emblem of watchful honesty; the moon of lunacy. Dr. Strachan is then an honest Dog, warning mankind to keep out of the way of schemes so wild as to savor of lunacy. As you have placed yourself and his Lordship in the moon, the most proper place for your abode, I must there leave you both.

ADAM MACADAM.

N. B. I must here make my acknowledgements for the local information received of Hudson's Bay and the interior countries; for which I am principally indebted to a traveller, whose knowledge of those regions is supposed to be unequalled.

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Communication.

MR. GRAY,

The several Pamphlets and Papers on the projected Colony on the Red River, in the interior of Upper Canada, have produced many arguments against the practicability of such an establishment, and of its usefulness when founded, as a part of the British Empire. It is the peculiar blessing of a free people to regard each other as part of one great family, and to feel an interest, more or less, in the fortune and fate of every individual; especially in those who quit their native home, with a view of bettering their condition, and adding to the strength, and extension of the British Dominions. To show how far Lord Selkirk has any claim to the Red River, and adjacent countries, by virtue of a grant from the Hudson's Bay Company only, and whether a colony, if established there, can add to, or even in reality be, a part of the British Empire, is the intention of these papers.

Hudson's Bay was discovered in 1610.—In the year 1670, nine or ten persons obtained a patent for an exclusive right to trade in those streights and seas called Hudson's. The sub-

stance

stance of their Charter runs thus—" The sole Trade and
 " Commerce of all those Seas, Streights, Bays, Rivers,
 " Lakes, Creeks, and Sounds, and whatever latitude they may
 " be, within the entrance of the Streights commonly called
 " Hudson's Streights ; together with all the Lands and Ter-
 " ritories upon the countries, *Coasts and Confines* of the seas,
 " , Lays, lakes, rivers, creeks, and sounds aforesaid."

That is, within Hudson's Streights, &c ; and all those lands,
 &c. &c. can only mean the countries adjacent to Hudson's
 Streights and Bay, not lands at the distance of 4 or 500 miles
 from Hudson's Bay. And throughout the Charter, the a-
 bove limits are constantly referred to, as the express limits
 of the Hudson's Bay Company's Charter. This same Char-
 ter also mentions, that no grant is made of any Territory,
 &c. then in possession of any other power, &c. &c. After
 the Revolution, in the second year of William and Mary, the
 Hudson's Bay Company's Charter was confirmed for the *limi-
 ted term of seven years, and to the end of the then next ses-
 sion of Parliament, and no longer.* The Preamble to this
 Act declares the insufficiency of the Charter, for the purpo-
 ses contained therein. And since the above period, the Hud-
 son's Bay Company has its trade by only the ta-
 cit consent of custom and possession. Hudson's Bay is a
 great inland bason, or sea. From the west end of Hudson's
 Streights,

Straits, southward along the Bay; then following the shores to the northward and westward, as far as the Latitude of 57 degrees north, the Bay is environed in the interior by an elevated ridge of rocky land, at the distance of from 100 to 200 miles in a waving line, from which, on the east side of the Bay, the waters run west into the Bay, and eastward into the Labrador Seas. On the southward the streams run northward into the Bay, and southerly and westerly into the St. Lawrence, and into Lake Superior. And on the west side of the Bay, the rivers flow from the same continued height of land eastward into the Bay, and westward into Lake Winnipeg. What the French claimed as Canada, made it a vast country, extending even to the Pacific Ocean. They considered the above dividing ridge of land as the natural boundary between them and Hudson's Bay; on which they never trespassed, but to make war. But they tenaciously held all the waters flowing southerly and westerly from the above height of land, to be a part of Canada, and placed their settlements so as to command the navigation and trade of those rivers &c. &c. And it appears they must have been in possession of at least a great portion of those regions, before even the Hudson's Bay Company was formed. The French surveyed the Gulf of St. Lawrence in 1500. In the year 1600 they collected furs to form a cargo, which was repeated the next year; and the country began to rise

in estimation. In 1608 Quebec was settled; the French rapidly advanced in the discovery of the interior country, and in the augmentation of the Fur Trade. In 1630 they formed a Beaver Company for this express purpose; the island of Michilimackinac in Lake Huron was made the Head Quarters for the distant posts. From this island it appears that several officers, either of the army or militia, went every year to occupy at once military and trading posts; these were soon extended far beyond Lake Superior.—1st to the head of the Rainy Lake River.—2d. to the junction of the River from the Nepigon country, back to Albany Factory, with the Winepig River.—3d. sortie of the River Winepig into Lake Winepig.—4th. the Red River.—5th. sortie of the River Saskatchewan into Lake Winepig.—6th. the junction of the Pasquaw River with the Saskatchewan.—7th. a settlement high up the Saskatchewan River. The first post commanded the navigation and trade to and from Lake Superior. The second to and from Albany Fort, in Hudson's Bay; the third do. do.; the fourth the interior countries west of Lake Winepig; the fifth, the navigation and trade to and from York Fort, in Hudson's Bay; the sixth the same purpose; the seventh in Lat. $53^{\circ} 20'$ N. Long. 105° West, under St. Luc Le Corne, a General in the Indian country, and a Captain in the Army, was only an extension of trade and discovery.—By the conquest and cession of Canada, all these regions

regions came under the dominion of the King of Great Britain; whose subjects of course entered into all the national rights of the French nation. The hostile state of the country prevented the British Merchants from penetrating to the post of St. Luc Le Corne until 1767 & 8; since that period their enterprising spirit, especially those under the name of the North West Company, extended the Fur Trade to the very shores of the Pacific Ocean.

In this most arduous and vast display of enterprise, perseverance in discovery, and in the exertions made for the extending of the Fur Trade among different Indian nations, speaking various languages, such has been the moderation and good faith of these Merchants, that not one single post has been founded on the blood of the Indians. The first inland settlement made by the Hudson's Bay Company was in the year 1774, under Mr. Hearne, near the Saskatchewan River, about 50 miles above the 6th military and trading post of the French:—And there is not one instance of the Hudson's Bay company ever making an advanced post, much less discovery, in this immense wilderness, if we except the journey of Mr. Hearne, in search of a copper mine, towards the North Pole, which was begun in the month of November, 1769. This is by no means imputed to a want of public spirit, since they fitted out many vessels, and expended great sums of money in Northern discoveries, particularly in

Baffin's Bay.—The Hudson's Bay Company then perfectly knew and understood the limits of their Charter; and at that time laid no claim to any of the countries occupied by the French nation, nor did they ever remonstrate against the French for being in possession of them.

From this statement of facts, it is very clear, that all those Western Regions, claimed and occupied by the French nation, belong to the British dominions, by right of conquest and cession only.—The whole of the vast tract of land claimed and seized by Lord Selkirk, amounting to about 117,000 square miles (no small kingdom) is clearly to the westward of the French line of posts, and no less than about 350 miles, in a direct line west of the dividing ridge, which the French held as the line between them and Hudson's Bay, it being the natural boundary of that Bay. The mouth of the Red River, being a part of his Lordship's East line, is about 690 miles from the Bay on the least oblique parallel of latitude, and about 500 miles from the nearest sea water of Hudson's Bay.

If then the Hudson's Bay company have in these days granted this kingdom to Lord Selkirk, their greatest stock-holder, and have created him Lord Paramount over extensive countries, and independent even of themselves, this company
must

must have usurped a power, never before held by any Company of Merchants; and must have considered the King of Great Britain, our Sovereign, as making war, and conquering only for them, and for their proper interest. And if the grant of these ceded countries by the Hudson's Bay Company to Lord Selkirk, is allowed, what is to prevent that Company from disposing of Upper and Lower Canada.

Hence it is evident that Lord Selkirk, by virtue of a grant from the Hudson's Bay Company only, has no legal title whatever to the several millions of acres he has claimed, and seized on the Red River, and adjacent countries, much less has he any right by his agents, by force of arms, to seize the servants and effects of the British Merchants from Canada, and drive them out from those countries; and thus destroy a vast extended commerce, dearly purchased, and upheld by innumerable hardships, and dangers, and great risk of capital. I would willingly have addressed this Letter to his Lordship, but he has taken his flight to the Moon, whither I am neither able nor willing to follow him.

ADAM MACADAM.

Montreal, August 20, 1816.